

NOVEMBER 1999

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- A look at Connecticut's School-to-Career System. (article, p.4)
- Industry clusters: business training grants. (p.3)
- Nonfarm jobs rose by 1,500 in September, and were 28,000 higher than a year ago. (p.6)
- Unemployment rate: 2.7 percent in September. (p.6)
- September's initial unemployment claims were down 22.1 percent over the year. (p.6)

Connecticut Business Climate Index Launched

By *Kolie Sun Chang, Senior Research Analyst*
and *Mark Prisloe, Senior Economist*

The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) has retained the Center for Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut (CSRA) to conduct a survey of businesses in Connecticut. Results are based on 400 telephone interviews conducted across the State. The interviews are conducted quarterly by trained interviewers from the CSRA research facility in Storrs, Connecticut. Through these surveys the DECD is able to continually monitor Connecticut's business climate and to gain a more accurate assessment of future expectations.

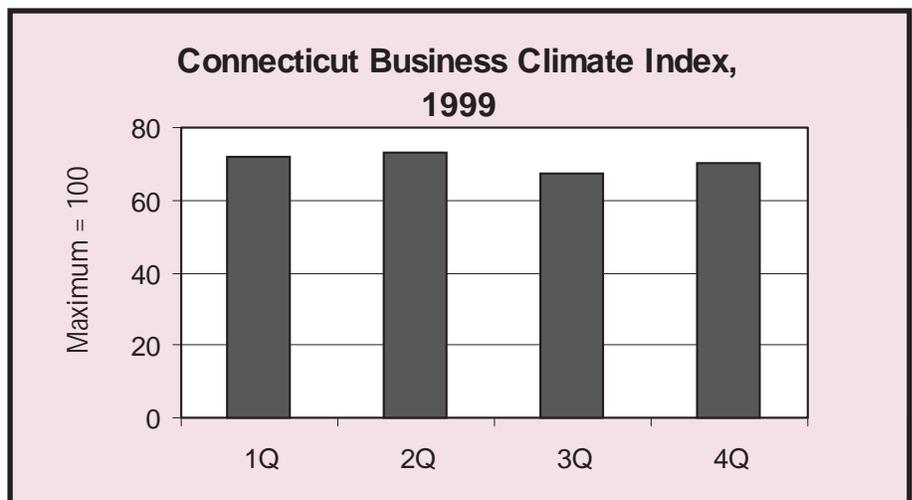
Launched in 1999

The Connecticut Business Climate Index was launched in early 1999 to assess current economic conditions and future expectations of the business community in Connecticut. The Business Climate Index is comprised of five components: (1) future expectations for the job market; (2) confidence in the future of their business; (3) future expectations for the economy; (4) current level of satisfaction with the economy; (5) current assessment of the economy on a prosperity to depression scale.

The index has a maximum score of 100, meaning all of the

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ECONOMIC DIGEST

The Connecticut Economic Digest is published monthly by the Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Public and Government Relations Division. Its purpose is to regularly provide users with a comprehensive source for the most current, up-to-date data available on the workforce and economy of the state, within perspectives of the region and nation.

The views expressed by authors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the Departments of Labor or Economic and Community Development.

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Contributing DOL Staff: Salvatore DiPillo, Lincoln S. Dyer, Arthur Famiglietti, Noreen Passardi and Joseph Slepski. **Managing Editor:** J. Charles Joo. **Contributing DECD Staff:** Todd Bentsen, Kolie Chang, Robert Damroth and Mark Prислоe. We would also like to thank our associates at the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut, for their contributions to the Digest.

Connecticut Department of Labor

James P. Butler, Commissioner
Jean E. Zurbrigen, Deputy Commissioner
Susan G. Townsley, Deputy Commissioner

Roger F. Therrien, Director
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
Phone: (860) 263-6275
Fax: (860) 263-6263
E-Mail: salvatore.dipillo@po.state.ct.us



Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

James F. Abromaitis, Commissioner
Rita Zangari, Deputy Commissioner
Timothy H. Coppage, Deputy Commissioner

Public and Government Relations Division
Research Unit
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106-2502
Phone: (860) 270-8165
Fax: (860) 270-8188
E-Mail: decd@po.state.ct.us



businesses in the state are completely confident with the current economic conditions and in the future of the economy and the job market.

Company Profile

Two-thirds of the businesses surveyed (66%) in the current quarter are members of the following industry clusters: Financial (11%), Health (11%), High Technology (11%), Manufacturing (11%), Telecommunications (11%), and Tourism/Entertainment (11%). The remaining one-third of the businesses surveyed (33%) are not members of the industry clusters.

Fifty-eight percent of the businesses surveyed have one to four employees. Thirty-three percent have five to fifty employees. Nine percent have fifty or more employees.

Twenty-six percent of the businesses surveyed have gross revenues of under \$100,000. Thirty-four percent of the businesses surveyed have gross revenues of \$100,000 to \$500,000. Sixteen percent of the businesses surveyed have gross revenues of \$500,000 to \$1 million. Twenty-four percent of the businesses surveyed have gross revenues of \$1 million or more.

Thirty-three percent of the businesses surveyed (132 in total) are located in Fairfield County. Twenty-nine percent (118) are located in Hartford County. Twelve percent of the businesses surveyed (46) are located east of the River. Twenty-six percent of the businesses surveyed (106) are located in the rest of the State.

Meeting Strategic Needs

According to the DECD, the new index is designed to mea-

sure the overall strength of the economic climate and to provide the Department with strategic and targeted information on the most important individual sectors. The strategic information will allow us to efficiently target resources to meet the needs of these vital businesses.

Quarterly Summary Results

The Connecticut Business Climate Index for the *first quarter* of 1999 was 71.9 on the 100-point index scale. Respondents were surveyed in late 1998. This result compared favorably to all previous indices conducted by DECD measuring business opinion about the economy. It indicated that Connecticut businesses continued to have high levels of confidence in a strong-performing economy.

Respondents in the January survey produced an index for the *second quarter* of 72.9. This indicated continued strong optimism for the second quarter.

Respondents in June resulted in a *third-quarter* index of 67.6. Businesses' satisfaction with current economic conditions remained high.

A strongly positive business assessment of both the U.S. and the Connecticut economy continued in the *final quarter* of this year as the DECD released on October 1, 1999 the most recent Connecticut Business Climate Index. The index stands at a robust 70.1. The index rebounded from the slight drop it took in the third quarter.

Conclusion

According to the four quarterly results, the business community in Connecticut has a strongly positive assessment of both the U.S. and the Connecti-

cut economy in general. For example, in the fourth quarter the vast majority (85%) of companies surveyed say that the U.S. and Connecticut economies are experiencing moderate recovery, strong recovery, or prosperity. Businesses in Connecticut (79%) also continue to be confident about the future of their own company over the next few years. Moreover, the vast majority of businesses in Connecticut (83%) say that the business climate in the state is getting better or staying the same. Only a small portion of the businesses surveyed (12%) think the business climate is getting worse. In

addition, most businesses (75%) report that the state government is paying as much or more attention to the needs of business as it did a few years ago. While a small percentage (25%) rated general business conditions as fair, most businesses in the state (67%) rate the present general business conditions in their area as good or excellent.

For additional information, please contact James Watson, Communications Specialist at the DECD by phone at (860) 270-8182 or by e-mail at james.w.watson@po.state.ct.us. ■

HOUSING UPDATE

September Permits Second Highest in 90's

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 894 new housing units in September 1999, a 9.1 percent decrease compared to September of 1998 when 984 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 894 units permitted in September 1999 represent a decrease of 9.8 percent from the 991 units permitted in August 1999. The year-to-date permits are down 2.3 percent, from 8,570 through September 1998, to 8,376 through September 1999.

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Windham County with 15 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in September compared to the same month a year ago. Fairfield County followed with a 1.5 percent increase.

Hartford County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in September with 204. Fairfield County followed with 197 units and New Haven County had 184 units. Danbury led all Connecticut communities with 46 units, followed by Hamden with 31 and Manchester with 27. ■

For more information on housing permits, see tables on pages 21-22.

Industry Clusters

Business Training Grants

One of the latest industry cluster developments is the new Connecticut Business Training Networks grant program helping employers maintain a workforce skilled enough for today's global challenges. Networks are five or more independent small or medium size companies with fewer than 500 employees who, by an application process, indicate their eligibility. The networks are expected to evolve into active, self-sustaining organizations. The first network, "Spring Training in Connecticut, LLC" consisting of five small spring manufacturers in the Bristol area has already formed.

Evaluation criteria include project objectives, potential to impact member companies and member employees, measurable outcomes, and budget. Grant funding can be obtained for a total of \$85,000 — up to \$10,000 for exploratory work, up to \$25,000 for each of two years' development work, and an additional \$25,000 for one year of an operational phase. Companies comprising networks are often in similar lines of business and — while not required — are often geographically close to one another.

The program is a partnership among the Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, and the Department of Labor. For more information contact Judy Resnick at (860) 244-1900. ■

Connecticut's School-to-Career System

What is Connecticut's School-to-Career System?

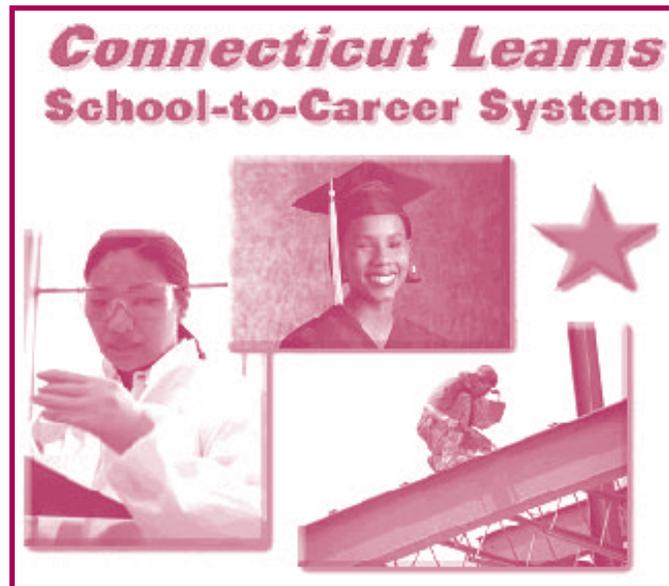
School-to-Career is a comprehensive education system that provides all students the opportunity to connect learning in the classroom with the needs and demands of the workplace and/or higher education. Connecticut's School-to-Career system shows students from elementary through post-secondary education how school-based academic knowledge applies to life outside the classroom and how it links to a variety of career paths. Students benefit from participation in a combination of school and work-based experiences, connected by a series of career exploration activities and assessments, which result in a more focused selection of course work based on potential career interests. Student achievement is raised through participation in learning experiences that require the application of knowledge and skills to real-life situations. School-to-Career initiatives support collaboration between the business and education communities thus providing students the experience to make informed career decisions.

How is School-to-Career Structured?

Every School-to-Career system must contain three core elements:

- ✓ **School-Based Learning** – Classroom instruction that integrates high academic standards with occupationally based skills incorporated in Connecticut's eight career clusters.

- ✓ **Work-Based Learning** – Work experience which provides structured training and mentoring that occurs in the workplace.
- ✓ **Connecting Activities** – Activities that link the classroom instruction with workplace experience, assisting students with choosing an appropriate curriculum.



What are Connecticut's Career Clusters?

Connecticut's School-to-Career system is organized around eight industry-identified career clusters. The eight career clusters are:

- * Arts and Media
- * Business and Finance
- * Construction: Technologies and Design
- * Environmental, Natural Resources and Agriculture
- * Government, Education and Human Services
- * Health and Biosciences
- * Retail, Tourism, Recreation and Entrepreneurship
- * Technologies: Manufacturing, Communications and Repair

Student work-based experiences in any of these eight clusters expose them to all aspects of an industry, from labor, health and safety issues and principles of technology to planning, management and finance. Students also learn about elements unique to an industry and to the general day-to-day details of running an entire business. In addition, the general work expectations of promptness, commitment and persistence are reinforced.

What are the Benefits to Employers?

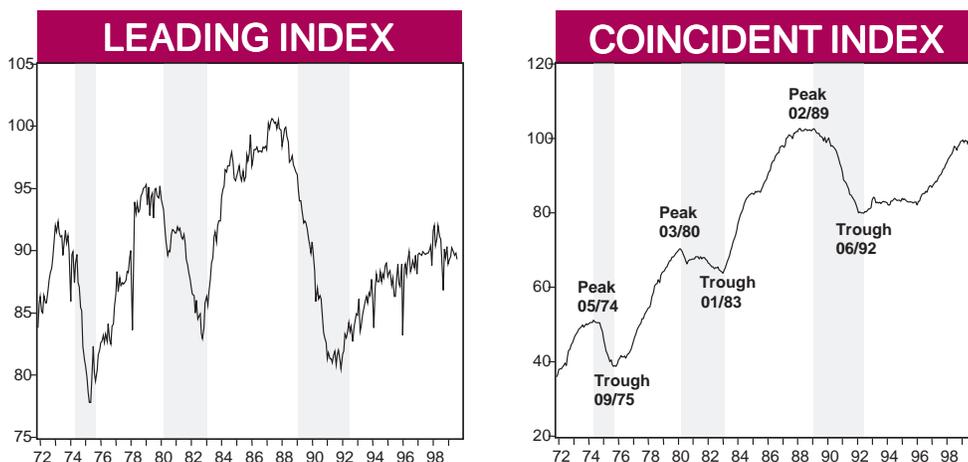
The benefits to employers participating in Connecticut Learns include: and investment in Connecticut's future; a key role in training the future workforce; strong community ties; and a positive impact on the morale and commitment of your employees through their interaction with students.

How can an Employer Get Involved as a Partner?

There are a variety of roles employers can play and opportunities they can provide as partners in the School-to-Career initiative. These include: participation in career days at schools, presentations to schools in the classroom, company tours for students and teachers, job shadowing experiences for students and teachers, internships for students and teachers and workplace mentoring.

Who can you Call to Learn More About School-To-Career?

Debra Hinck at the Connecticut Department of Labor at 860-263-6522 or Ann Gaulin at the Connecticut Department of Education at 860-807-2102. ■



The distance from peak to trough, indicated by the shaded areas, measures the duration of an employment cycle recession. The vertical scale in both charts is an index with 1987=100.

Current Expansion Continues Its Recent Robust Movement

The Connecticut coincident employment index jumped, once again, to a new peak in the current expansion with the release of (preliminary) August 1999 data. The Connecticut leading employment index continued to drift, decreasing slightly from July, but increasing slightly from August last year.

The coincident index, a gauge of current employment activity, rose to a level not seen since March 1989, one month after its peak of the 1980s expansion. As the accompanying chart reveals, the coincident index now stands near its all-time peak. The coincident index rose by 4.6 percent over the last twelve months. Contributing to this increase was the decrease in the total unemployment rate from 3.2 to 2.1 percent. The dramatic drop in the total unemployment rate from 3.4 percent in June to 2.6 percent in July to 2.1 percent in August has left most analysts at a loss to provide a rationalization. Many cannot believe that the unemployment rate has fallen to so low a level. Smaller contributions to the

growth of the coincident index were the 1.3 percent increase in nonfarm labor and the 0.9 percent increase in total employment. Finally, the insured unemployment rate increased from 1.98 to 2.02 percent, tending to moderate the increase in the coincident index.

The leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, has bounced around considerably during the last several years. Since late 1996 and early 1997, however, it has remained in the neighborhood of its current level. See the accompanying chart for details. The leading index's signal light definitely began flashing yellow a few years ago. We continue to monitor the leading index's signal for its next change to green or red. Over the most recent 12 months, the leading index has increased by 0.3 percent.

The August release continues the unusual event noted in the last two month's columns — total employment below nonfarm employment, although the gap

narrowed significantly with non-farm employment now only 2,000 higher than total employment.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 97.5 in August 1998 to 102.0 in August 1999. Three components of the index point in a positive direction on a year-over-year basis with higher nonfarm employment, higher total employment, and a lower total unemployment rate. The other component points in a negative direction on a year-over-year basis with a higher insured unemployment rate.

The leading employment index rose from 89.0 in August 1998 to 89.3 in August 1999. Four index components sent positive signals on a year-over-year basis with lower initial claims for unemployment insurance, a higher average workweek of manufacturing production workers, a lower short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, and higher total housing permits. One component sent a negative signal on a year-over-year basis with lower Hartford help wanted advertising.

Source: Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut. Developed by Pami Dua [Economic Cycle Research Center; NY, NY] and Stephen M. Miller [(860) 486-3853, Storrs Campus]. Stan McMillen and Hulya Varol [(860) 486-3022, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Total employment increased by 28,000 over the year, or 1.7 percent.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

	SEP		CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>					
TOTAL NONFARM	1,673.8	1,645.8	28.0	1.7	1,672.3
Private Sector	1,436.9	1,415.3	21.6	1.5	1,438.0
Construction and Mining	61.5	59.1	2.4	4.1	60.9
Manufacturing	272.8	278.0	-5.2	-1.9	273.1
Transportation, Public Utilities	75.1	70.5	4.6	6.5	75.8
Wholesale, Retail Trade	358.4	354.5	3.9	1.1	359.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	139.6	137.5	2.1	1.5	139.2
Services	529.5	515.7	13.8	2.7	529.4
Government	236.9	230.5	6.4	2.8	234.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate dropped, as the labor force rose from a year ago. The number of initial claims declined over the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

	SEP		CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	2.7	3.4	-0.7	---	2.1
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,717.7	1,715.8	1.9	0.1	1,705.8
Employed (000s)	1,671.7	1,657.2	14.5	0.9	1,670.1
Unemployed (000s)	45.9	58.6	-12.7	-21.7	35.7
Average Weekly Initial Claims	3,954	5,076	-1122	-22.1	3,797
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	30	32	-2	-6.3	31
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	1.94	1.97	-0.03	---	2.04

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

Both production worker weekly hours and hourly earnings increased over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	SEP		CHANGE		AUG	JUL
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999	1999
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>						
Average Weekly Hours	42.0	41.9	0.1	0.2	42.5	--
Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.53	\$14.98	\$0.55	3.7	\$15.27	--
Average Weekly Earnings	\$652.26	\$627.66	\$24.60	3.9	\$648.98	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (1982=100)*	126.9	126.2	0.7	0.6	128.9	128.1
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,634	6,744	-110	-1.6	6,619	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)**	504	511	-7.0	-1.4	546	517

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Energy

*This new and improved index replaced the Manufacturing Output Index; Seasonally adjusted.

**Latest two months are forecasted. See June 1999 Digest article for explanation; methodology or historical data back to 1982 is available by contacting Connecticut Department of Labor, at (860)263-6293.

Personal income for first quarter 2000 is forecasted to increase 5.8 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME (Quarterly)

	1Q*		CHANGE		4Q*
	2000	1999	NO.	%	1999
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>					
<i>(Annualized; \$ Millions)</i>					
Personal Income	\$134,121	\$126,782	\$7,339	5.8	\$132,666
UI Covered Wages	\$70,878	\$67,525	\$3,353	5.0	\$70,567

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis; October 1999 release

*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

NA= Not Available

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %		YEAR TO DATE %	
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
New Housing Permits	SEP 1999	894	-9.1	8,376	8,570	-2.3
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	JUL 1999	2,972	11.6	17,476	16,709	4.6
Retail Sales (Bil. \$)	JUL 1999	2.89	2.8	21.69	20.61	5.2
Construction Contracts						
Index (1980=100)	SEP 1999	248.4	31.2	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	SEP 1999	17,331	-29.8	172,983	162,775	6.3
Air Cargo Tons	AUG 1999	12,188	1.6	93,706	92,361	1.5

Retail sales through July were up 5.2 percent over the same period a year ago.

Sources: Department of Economic and Community Development; U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration; Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; F.W. Dodge; Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles; Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	SEP	% CHANGE		YEAR TO DATE		%
	1999	M/M	Y/Y	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	1,790	5.0	15.7	16,155	15,064	7.2
Department of Labor	702	-35.6	-1.8	8,195	7,838	4.6
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	318	2.3	-0.9	2,966	2,910	1.9
Department of Labor	553	-33.9	-5.0	9,229	9,639	-4.3

Net business formation as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Secretary of the State, was up by 13,189 for the year through September.

Sources: Connecticut Secretary of the State -- corporations and other legal entities
Connecticut Department of Labor -- unemployment insurance program registrations

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

(Millions of dollars)				FISCAL YEAR TOTALS		
	SEP 1999	SEP 1998	% CHG	1998-99	1997-98	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	782.9	760.7	2.9	1,381.5	1,344.0	2.8
Corporate Tax	68.1	81.0	-15.9	81.7	90.8	-10.0
Personal Income Tax	358.6	339.4	5.7	572.9	547.0	4.7
Real Estate Conv. Tax	9.6	9.0	0.6	33.3	31.4	6.1
Sales & Use Tax	229.0	217.7	5.2	466.3	444.5	4.9

Only corporate tax collections were down over the fiscal year from a year ago, reflecting a rate reduction.

Source: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services
*Includes all sources of tax revenue; Only selected taxes are displayed; Most July collections are credited to the prior fiscal year and are not shown.

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %		YEAR TO DATE %	
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
Tourism Inquiries	SEP 1999	17,491	40.6	286,208	244,768	16.9
Info Center Visitors	SEP 1999	75,758	-5.1	480,760	477,017	0.8
Major Attraction Visitors	AUG 1999	384,178	1.4	1,466,950	1,522,316	-3.6
Hotel-Motel Occupancy*	AUG 1999	81.6	-1.6	72.7	73.8	-1.1
Air Passenger Count	AUG 1999	561,848	10.0	4,102,333	3,715,118	10.4

Hotel-motel occupancy dipped slightly in August.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports; Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; Connecticut Lodging & Attractions Association

*Hotel-Motel Occupancy rate changes are in percentage points.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Compensation costs for the nation rose 3.1 percent over the year, while the Northeast's increased by 3.2 percent.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	SEP 1999	JUN 1999	3-Mo % Chg	SEP 1999	SEP 1998	12-Mo % Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	143.0	141.8	0.8	143.3	139.0	3.1
Wages and Salaries	140.9	139.8	0.8	141.0	136.6	3.2
Benefit Costs	148.1	146.8	0.9	148.6	144.5	2.8
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	143.2	138.7	3.2
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	139.9	135.4	3.3

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

U.S. inflation was up 2.6 percent in September. The Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers U.S. City Average posted the highest rate of 2.8 percent.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	SEP 1999	AUG 1999	SEP 1998	% CHG M/M Y/Y	
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	167.9	167.1	163.6	0.5	2.6
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=\$1.00)	\$0.596	\$0.598	\$0.611	-0.5	-2.6
Northeast Region	174.8	174.1	170.6	0.4	2.5
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	178.2	177.6	174.4	0.3	2.2
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	176.8	---	172.1	---	2.7
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	164.7	163.8	160.2	0.5	2.8
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	134.2	136.0	126.4	-1.3	6.2
New England	132.1	135.0	117.4	-2.1	12.5

*The Boston CPI can be used as a proxy for New England and is measured every other month.
Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; The Conference Board

Except for the prime, federal funds, and 3-month Treasury bill, rates were uniformly higher including a 7.82 percent 30-year conventional mortgage rate.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	SEP 1999	AUG 1999	SEP 1998
Prime	8.25	8.06	8.49
Federal Funds	5.22	5.07	5.51
3 Month Treasury Bill	4.73	4.76	4.74
6 Month Treasury Bill	4.91	4.88	4.75
1 Year Treasury Bill	5.25	5.20	4.71
3 Year Treasury Note	5.75	5.77	4.62
5 Year Treasury Note	5.80	5.84	4.62
7 Year Treasury Note	6.12	6.15	4.76
10 Year Treasury Note	5.92	5.94	4.81
30 Year Treasury Bond	6.07	6.07	5.20
Conventional Mortgage	7.82	7.94	6.72

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

COMPARATIVE REGIONAL DATA

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

All states in the region experienced job gains over the year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted: 000s)</i>	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
Connecticut	1,673.8	1,645.8	28.0	1.7	1,672.3
Maine	585.8	573.0	12.8	2.2	584.4
Massachusetts	3,231.6	3,187.9	43.7	1.4	3,229.0
New Hampshire	601.0	587.8	13.2	2.2	600.2
New Jersey	3,878.3	3,821.0	57.3	1.5	3,871.7
New York	8,411.6	8,263.3	148.3	1.8	8,393.2
Pennsylvania	5,537.5	5,516.8	20.7	0.4	5,529.4
Rhode Island	468.0	462.1	5.9	1.3	465.1
Vermont	290.5	287.0	3.5	1.2	291.9
United States	128,911.0	126,361.0	2,550.0	2.0	128,919.0

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

LABOR FORCE

Eight of the nine states in the region posted increases in the labor force from last year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted: 000s)</i>	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
Connecticut	1,717.7	1,715.8	1.9	0.1	1,705.8
Maine	676.2	653.1	23.1	3.5	669.5
Massachusetts	3,273.1	3,274.2	-1.1	0.0	3,280.5
New Hampshire	667.7	652.4	15.3	2.3	669.6
New Jersey	4,233.5	4,153.4	80.1	1.9	4,255.2
New York	8,931.3	8,870.5	60.8	0.7	8,903.6
Pennsylvania	5,970.4	5,932.1	38.3	0.6	5,986.4
Rhode Island	505.3	498.7	6.6	1.3	509.1
Vermont	338.7	331.4	7.3	2.2	339.9
United States	139,386.0	138,081.0	1,305.0	0.9	139,264.0

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

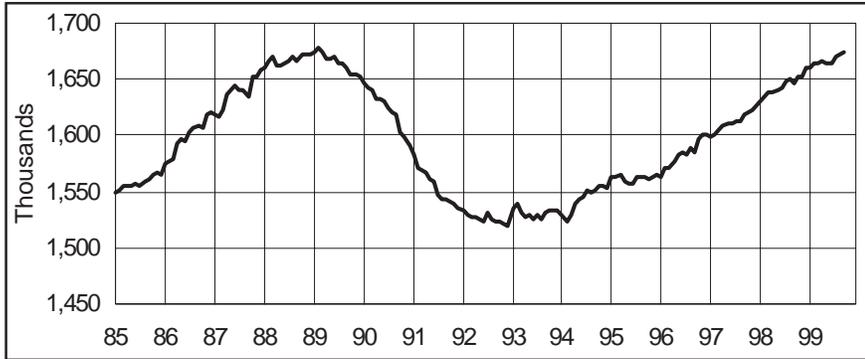
Eight of the nine states in the region posted lower unemployment rates than a year ago.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	SEP	SEP	CHANGE	AUG
	1999	1998		1999
Connecticut	2.7	3.4	-0.7	2.1
Maine	3.9	4.3	-0.4	4.2
Massachusetts	2.9	3.3	-0.4	3.1
New Hampshire	2.1	2.8	-0.7	2.3
New Jersey	4.6	4.6	0.0	4.7
New York	5.3	5.5	-0.2	5.1
Pennsylvania	4.5	4.6	-0.1	4.5
Rhode Island	3.8	4.8	-1.0	4.4
Vermont	2.9	3.3	-0.4	2.9
United States	4.2	4.5	-0.3	4.2

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



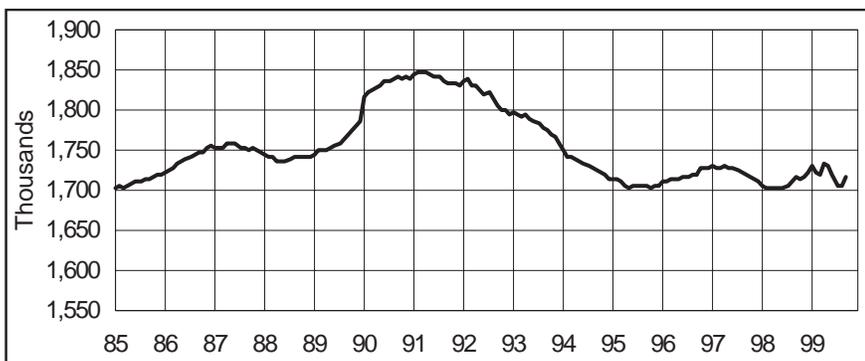
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,599.4	1,631.4	1,660.5
Feb	1,601.5	1,635.5	1,663.4
Mar	1,605.1	1,638.4	1,663.9
Apr	1,609.3	1,638.5	1,665.4
May	1,610.3	1,640.8	1,663.3
Jun	1,610.2	1,643.3	1,665.2
Jul	1,612.9	1,649.3	1,669.5
Aug	1,612.5	1,651.3	1,672.3
Sep	1,618.3	1,645.8	1,673.8
Oct	1,620.7	1,651.4	
Nov	1,622.4	1,652.5	
Dec	1,627.4	1,660.3	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



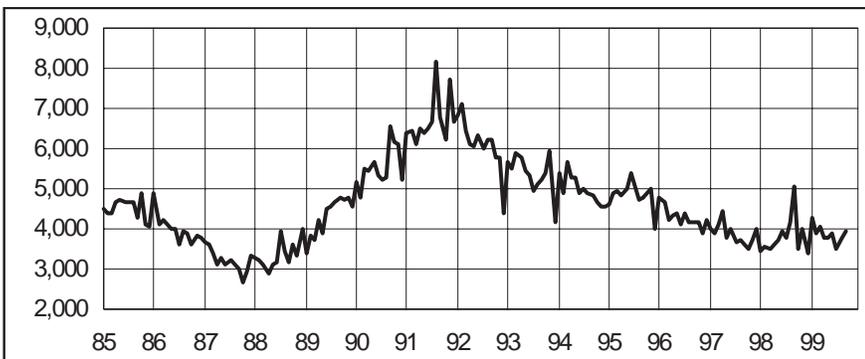
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	5.8	3.8	3.0
Feb	5.6	3.6	3.1
Mar	5.5	3.5	3.2
Apr	5.5	3.4	3.4
May	5.4	3.4	3.4
Jun	5.3	3.2	3.4
Jul	5.1	3.0	2.6
Aug	4.9	3.2	2.1
Sep	4.8	3.4	2.7
Oct	4.6	3.2	
Nov	4.4	3.2	
Dec	4.2	3.2	

LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,729.2	1,706.3	1,729.5
Feb	1,728.2	1,703.2	1,722.8
Mar	1,728.1	1,704.0	1,718.6
Apr	1,729.9	1,702.9	1,732.6
May	1,727.6	1,703.4	1,731.2
Jun	1,726.9	1,704.1	1,719.2
Jul	1,724.3	1,706.7	1,706.5
Aug	1,721.1	1,710.0	1,705.8
Sep	1,720.0	1,715.8	1,717.7
Oct	1,718.0	1,714.2	
Nov	1,713.7	1,718.0	
Dec	1,712.0	1,722.0	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	4,010	3,450	4,252
Feb	3,892	3,573	3,885
Mar	4,084	3,518	4,047
Apr	4,434	3,584	3,805
May	3,791	3,710	3,776
Jun	3,990	3,962	3,894
Jul	3,678	3,779	3,498
Aug	3,736	4,164	3,797
Sep	3,621	5,076	3,954
Oct	3,502	3,500	
Nov	3,699	4,026	
Dec	4,026	3,394	

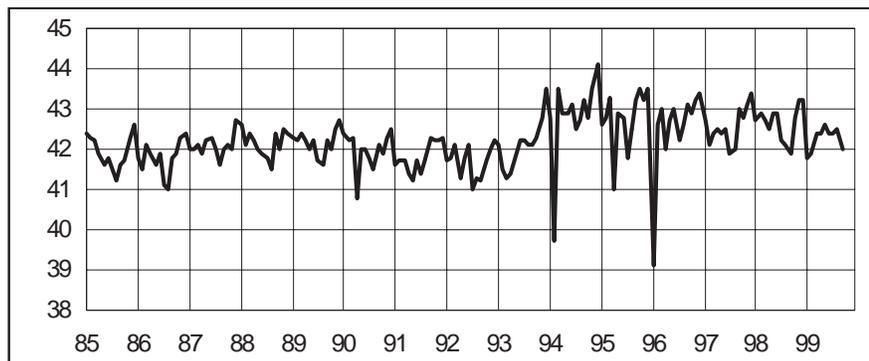
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

REAL AVG MANUFACTURING HOURLY EARNINGS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



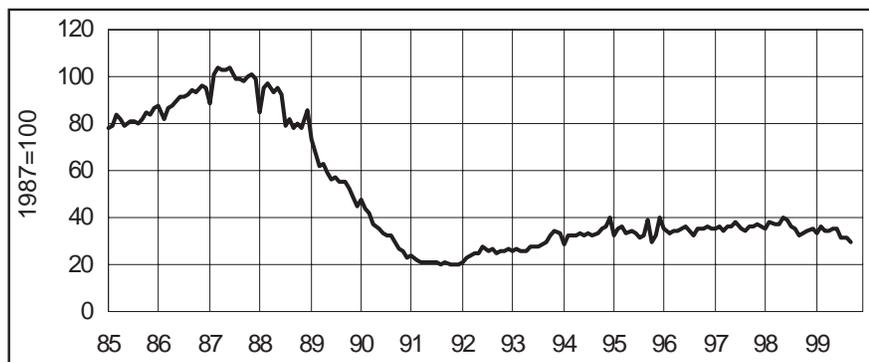
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	\$9.09	\$9.27	\$9.32
Feb	9.06	9.26	9.31
Mar	9.08	9.29	9.33
Apr	9.09	9.26	9.32
May	9.13	9.25	9.37
Jun	9.14	9.27	9.36
Jul	9.26	9.32	9.34
Aug	9.20	9.24	9.32
Sep	9.24	9.35	9.43
Oct	9.22	9.27	
Nov	9.26	9.30	
Dec	9.32	9.34	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



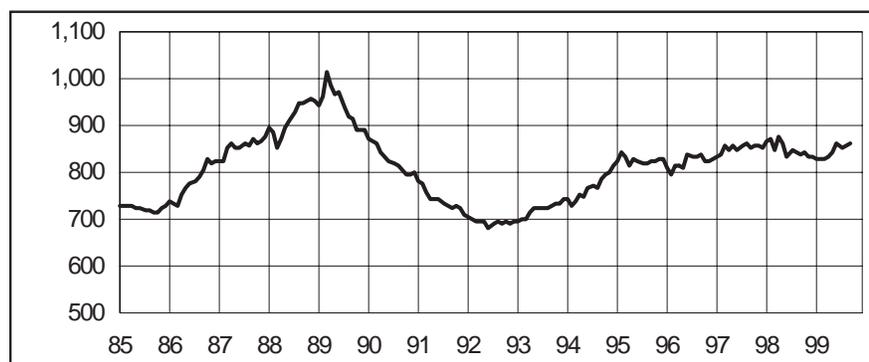
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	42.7	42.7	41.8
Feb	42.1	42.9	41.9
Mar	42.4	42.7	42.4
Apr	42.5	42.5	42.4
May	42.4	42.9	42.6
Jun	42.5	42.9	42.4
Jul	41.9	42.2	42.4
Aug	42.0	42.1	42.5
Sep	43.0	41.9	42.0
Oct	42.8	42.8	
Nov	43.1	43.2	
Dec	43.4	43.2	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	35	35	33
Feb	36	38	36
Mar	34	37	34
Apr	36	37	34
May	36	40	35
Jun	38	39	35
Jul	35	36	31
Aug	34	35	31
Sep	36	32	30
Oct	35	33	
Nov	37	34	
Dec	36	35	

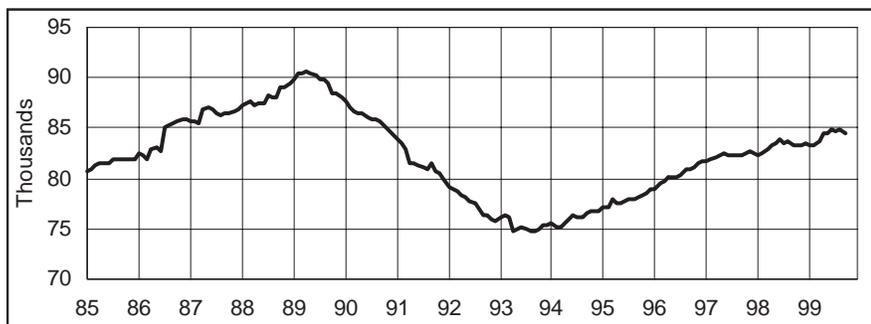
DOL NEWLY REGISTERED EMPLOYERS *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	833	868	831
Feb	840	870	828
Mar	856	846	829
Apr	849	878	834
May	856	861	843
Jun	848	836	861
Jul	856	849	854
Aug	862	841	856
Sep	854	838	861
Oct	859	845	
Nov	859	836	
Dec	852	832	

ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

WHOLESALE TRADE EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



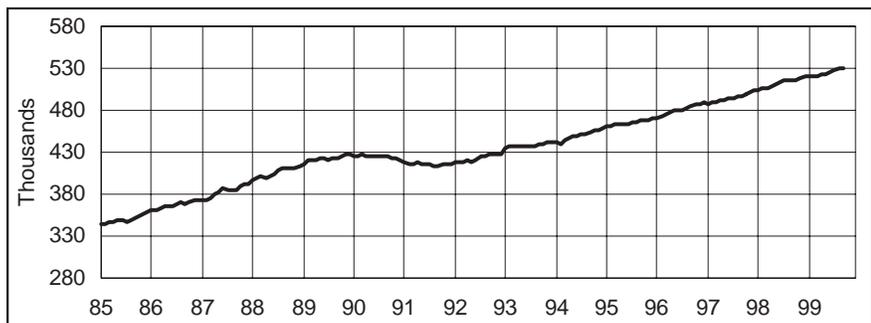
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	81.8	82.3	83.2
Feb	82.0	82.5	83.3
Mar	82.2	82.8	83.6
Apr	82.4	83.3	84.4
May	82.5	83.4	84.4
Jun	82.3	83.9	84.9
Jul	82.3	83.5	84.7
Aug	82.3	83.6	84.8
Sep	82.4	83.3	84.4
Oct	82.5	83.2	
Nov	82.6	83.3	
Dec	82.5	83.4	

RETAIL TRADE EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



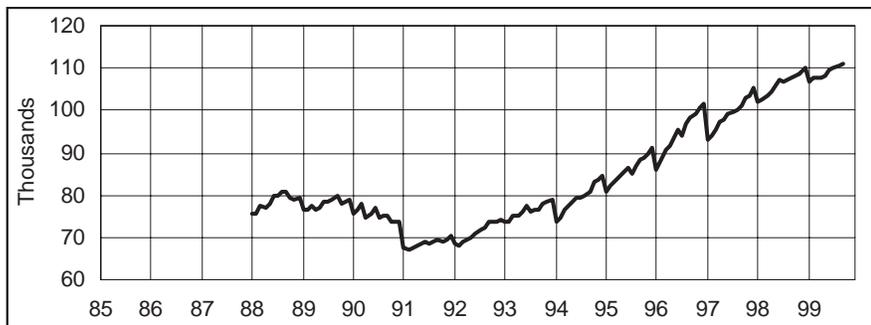
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	268.6	270.7	274.6
Feb	267.2	271.9	276.2
Mar	269.2	272.3	275.5
Apr	268.7	271.5	274.0
May	268.9	272.2	273.9
Jun	269.4	271.9	273.8
Jul	268.1	271.6	273.6
Aug	269.4	271.8	274.8
Sep	269.9	271.2	274.0
Oct	270.1	272.2	
Nov	270.5	273.6	
Dec	271.0	275.5	

TOTAL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	487.5	505.0	520.0
Feb	489.1	506.1	521.4
Mar	490.6	507.2	520.5
Apr	492.8	509.0	523.8
May	492.8	511.2	523.1
Jun	493.8	513.5	526.3
Jul	495.4	514.7	528.6
Aug	496.5	515.4	529.4
Sep	497.8	515.7	529.5
Oct	499.4	516.3	
Nov	501.0	517.0	
Dec	503.4	520.1	

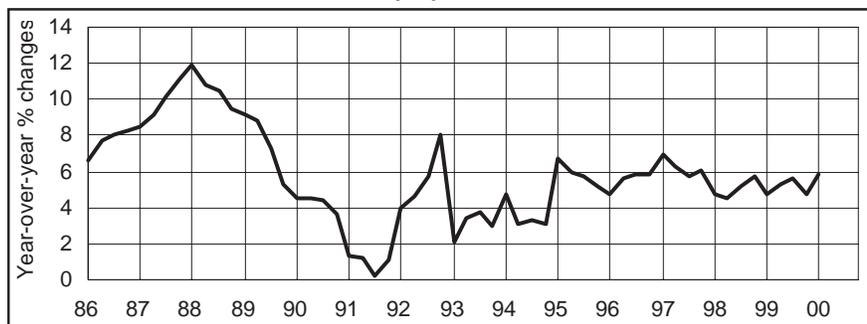
BUSINESS SERVICES EMPLOYMENT (Not seasonally adjusted)



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	93.1	102.0	106.8
Feb	94.0	102.4	107.7
Mar	95.4	103.7	107.8
Apr	97.1	104.5	107.7
May	98.0	106.0	108.4
Jun	99.2	107.3	109.5
Jul	99.5	106.6	110.0
Aug	100.1	107.4	110.5
Sep	101.1	107.9	111.1
Oct	102.9	108.0	
Nov	103.6	108.8	
Dec	105.3	110.2	

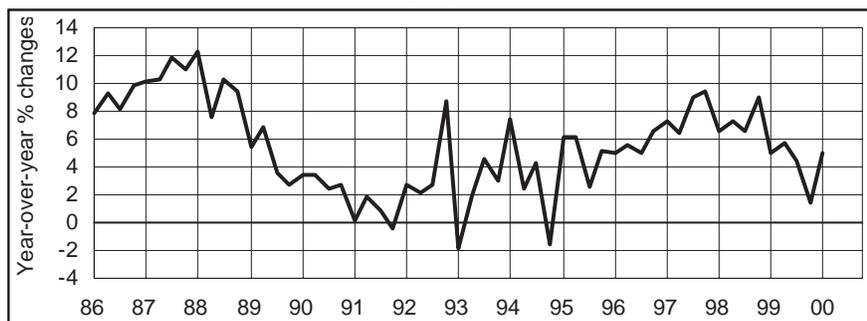
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

PERSONAL INCOME *(Seasonally adjusted)*



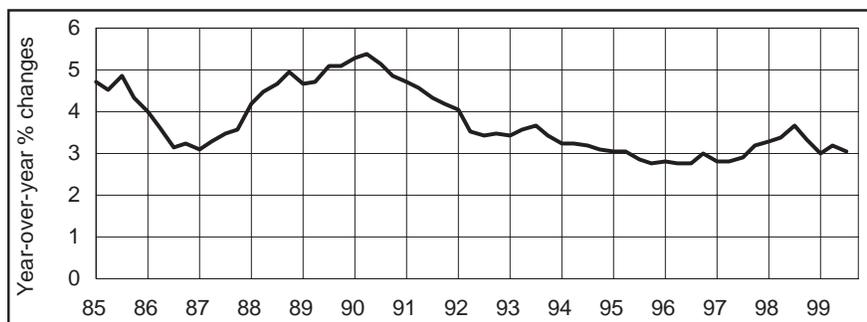
Quarter	1998	1999	2000
First	4.7	4.7	5.8
Second	4.6	5.3	
Third	5.2	5.6	
Fourth	5.8	4.7	

UI COVERED WAGES *(Seasonally adjusted)*



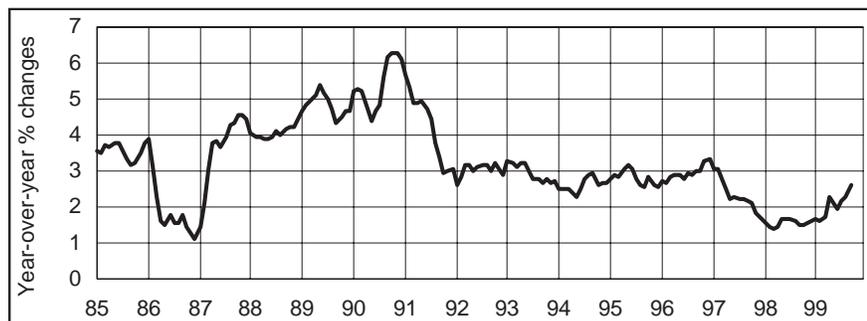
Quarter	1998	1999	2000
First	6.5	5.0	5.0
Second	7.3	5.8	
Third	6.6	4.4	
Fourth	9.1	1.4	

U.S. EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Quarter	1997	1998	1999
First	2.8	3.3	3.0
Second	2.8	3.4	3.2
Third	2.9	3.7	3.0
Fourth	3.2	3.3	

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	3.0	1.6	1.7
Feb	3.0	1.4	1.6
Mar	2.8	1.4	1.7
Apr	2.5	1.4	2.3
May	2.2	1.7	2.1
Jun	2.3	1.7	2.0
Jul	2.2	1.7	2.1
Aug	2.2	1.6	2.3
Sep	2.2	1.5	2.6
Oct	2.1	1.5	
Nov	1.8	1.5	
Dec	1.7	1.6	

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

CONNECTICUT



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	1,681,400	1,653,400 *	28,000	1.7	1,661,100
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	338,500	340,800	-2,300	-0.7	337,900
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	65,100	62,800	2,300	3.7	66,200
MANUFACTURING	273,400	278,000	-4,600	-1.7	271,700
Durable	192,300	195,600	-3,300	-1.7	190,700
Lumber & Furniture	5,300	5,300	0	0.0	5,200
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,900	2,800	100	3.6	2,800
Primary Metals	9,200	9,300	-100	-1.1	9,200
Fabricated Metals	35,000	35,500	-500	-1.4	34,800
Machinery & Computer Equipment	34,400	34,900	-500	-1.4	33,600
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	28,700	29,100	-400	-1.4	28,700
Transportation Equipment	48,600	50,200	-1,600	-3.2	48,400
Instruments	22,000	22,200	-200	-0.9	21,800
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,200	6,300	-100	-1.6	6,200
Nondurable	81,100	82,400	-1,300	-1.6	81,000
Food	8,100	8,100	0	0.0	8,000
Textiles	1,900	2,000	-100	-5.0	1,900
Apparel	4,100	4,300	-200	-4.7	4,100
Paper	7,700	7,800	-100	-1.3	7,700
Printing & Publishing	25,900	26,600	-700	-2.6	25,900
Chemicals	20,900	20,900	0	0.0	20,900
Rubber & Plastics	10,400	10,700	-300	-2.8	10,400
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	2,100	2,000	100	5.0	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,342,900	1,312,600 *	30,300	2.3	1,323,200
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	76,000	71,300 *	4,700	6.6	74,400
Transportation	44,600	45,200	-600	-1.3	42,800
Motor Freight & Warehousing	12,100	12,400	-300	-2.4	12,100
Other Transportation	32,500	32,800	-300	-0.9	30,700
Communications	19,200	13,800 *	5,400	39.1	19,400
Utilities	12,200	12,300	-100	-0.8	12,200
TRADE	359,000	355,400	3,600	1.0	360,100
Wholesale	84,700	83,600	1,100	1.3	85,000
Retail	274,300	271,800	2,500	0.9	275,100
General Merchandise	25,300	26,800	-1,500	-5.6	25,000
Food Stores	52,800	52,600	200	0.4	53,300
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	27,200	26,900	300	1.1	27,300
Restaurants	78,100	77,900	200	0.3	78,600
Other Retail Trade	90,900	87,600	3,300	3.8	90,900
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	139,500	137,600	1,900	1.4	140,600
Finance	52,500	51,000	1,500	2.9	53,000
Banking	25,600	25,000	600	2.4	26,000
Insurance	70,500	70,700	-200	-0.3	70,900
Insurance Carriers	59,100	59,600	-500	-0.8	59,500
Real Estate	16,600	15,900	700	4.4	16,700
SERVICES	532,100	518,100	14,000	2.7	531,000
Hotels & Lodging Places	12,000	11,600	400	3.4	12,900
Personal Services	18,500	18,100	400	2.2	18,100
Business Services	111,100	107,900	3,200	3.0	110,500
Health Services	157,900	157,200	700	0.4	157,500
Legal & Engineering Services	56,500	54,600	1,900	3.5	57,000
Educational Services	45,400	43,600	1,800	4.1	39,100
Other Services	130,700	125,100	5,600	4.5	135,900
GOVERNMENT	236,300	230,200	6,100	2.6	217,100
Federal	22,400	22,200	200	0.9	22,400
**State, Local & Other Government	213,900	208,000	5,900	2.8	194,700

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

BRIDGEPORT LMA



			<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>		AUG 1999
	SEP 1999	SEP 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	186,500	186,100 *	400	0.2	184,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	44,900	45,600	-700	-1.5	44,900
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	7,300	6,800	500	7.4	7,400
MANUFACTURING	37,600	38,800	-1,200	-3.1	37,500
Durable Goods	30,300	31,600	-1,300	-4.1	30,300
Fabricated Metals	4,000	4,600	-600	-13.0	4,200
Industrial Machinery	6,100	6,300	-200	-3.2	6,100
Electronic Equipment	6,300	6,100	200	3.3	6,200
Transportation Equipment	7,900	8,300	-400	-4.8	7,800
Nondurable Goods	7,300	7,200	100	1.4	7,200
Printing & Publishing	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	141,600	140,500 *	1,100	0.8	139,900
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	6,700	6,600 *	100	1.5	6,800
TRADE	41,000	41,300	-300	-0.7	40,900
Wholesale	10,400	10,300	100	1.0	10,200
Retail	30,600	31,000	-400	-1.3	30,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	10,800	10,600	200	1.9	10,800
SERVICES	62,200	61,100	1,100	1.8	61,100
Business Services	15,700	15,100	600	4.0	15,300
Health Services	19,800	19,600	200	1.0	19,600
GOVERNMENT	20,900	20,900	0	0.0	20,300
Federal	1,900	2,100	-200	-9.5	2,100
State & Local	19,000	18,800	200	1.1	18,200

For further information on the Bridgeport Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

DANBURY LMA



			<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>		AUG 1999
	SEP 1999	SEP 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	89,500	88,300 *	1,200	1.4	87,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,600	23,400	-800	-3.4	22,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	0.0	4,100
MANUFACTURING	18,600	19,400	-800	-4.1	18,600
Durable Goods	10,100	10,700	-600	-5.6	10,100
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,300	5,600	-300	-5.4	5,300
Instruments & Related	2,400	2,700	-300	-11.1	2,400
Nondurable Goods	8,500	8,700	-200	-2.3	8,500
Printing & Publishing	2,400	2,500	-100	-4.0	2,400
Chemicals	3,500	3,400	100	2.9	3,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	66,900	64,900 *	2,000	3.1	65,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	3,000	2,800 *	200	7.1	2,700
TRADE	21,800	21,800	0	0.0	22,100
Wholesale	3,400	3,500	-100	-2.9	3,400
Retail	18,400	18,300	100	0.5	18,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	5,100	4,800	300	6.3	5,100
SERVICES	25,800	25,600	200	0.8	26,200
GOVERNMENT	11,200	9,900	1,300	13.1	9,000
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	10,400	9,100	1,300	14.3	8,200

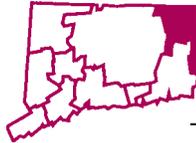
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

DANIELSON LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	20,200	20,200	0	0.0	19,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,300	6,600	-300	-4.5	6,300
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	900	900	0	0.0	900
MANUFACTURING	5,400	5,700	-300	-5.3	5,400
Durable Goods	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.3	2,200
Nondurable Goods	3,200	3,400	-200	-5.9	3,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	13,900	13,600	300	2.2	13,500
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	500	500	0	0.0	500
TRADE	5,000	4,800	200	4.2	5,000
Wholesale	1,000	800	200	25.0	1,000
Retail	4,000	4,000	0	0.0	4,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	600	600	0	0.0	600
SERVICES	4,800	4,700	100	2.1	4,700
GOVERNMENT	3,000	3,000	0	0.0	2,700
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	2,900	2,900	0	0.0	2,600

For further information on the Danielson Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 263-6299.

HARTFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	606,300	605,800 *	500	0.1	600,300
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	115,700	116,800	-1,100	-0.9	115,600
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	21,700	20,900	800	3.8	22,000
MANUFACTURING	94,000	95,900	-1,900	-2.0	93,600
Durable Goods	73,700	75,600	-1,900	-2.5	73,400
Primary & Fabricated Metals	18,900	18,800	100	0.5	18,800
Industrial Machinery	13,900	14,400	-500	-3.5	13,700
Electronic Equipment	6,100	6,500	-400	-6.2	6,300
Transportation Equipment	26,300	27,400	-1,100	-4.0	26,300
Nondurable Goods	20,300	20,300	0	0.0	20,200
Printing & Publishing	9,000	8,800	200	2.3	8,900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	490,600	489,000 *	1,600	0.3	484,700
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	26,500	26,000 *	500	1.9	25,500
Transportation	15,300	15,700	-400	-2.5	14,200
Communications & Utilities	11,200	10,300 *	900	8.7	11,300
TRADE	124,800	124,200	600	0.5	124,600
Wholesale	29,900	29,900	0	0.0	30,300
Retail	94,900	94,300	600	0.6	94,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	70,200	71,200	-1,000	-1.4	71,100
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	11,700	11,800	-100	-0.8	11,800
Insurance Carriers	45,500	46,400	-900	-1.9	46,000
SERVICES	175,700	174,800	900	0.5	176,100
Business Services	34,700	33,200	1,500	4.5	34,700
Health Services	58,300	59,100	-800	-1.4	57,200
GOVERNMENT	93,400	92,800	600	0.6	87,400
Federal	7,600	7,900	-300	-3.8	7,700
State & Local	85,800	84,900	900	1.1	79,700

For further information on the Hartford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

LOWER RIVER LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
	SEP 1999	SEP 1998	CHANGE NO. %	AUG 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	9,600	9,600	0 0.0	9,500
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,400	3,400	0 0.0	3,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	500	500	0 0.0	500
MANUFACTURING	2,900	2,900	0 0.0	2,900
Durable Goods	2,300	2,300	0 0.0	2,300
Electronic Equipment	700	700	0 0.0	700
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	0 0.0	1,600
Nondurable Goods	600	600	0 0.0	600
Rubber & Plastics	300	300	0 0.0	300
Other Nondurable Goods	300	300	0 0.0	300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,200	6,200	0 0.0	6,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	400	400	0 0.0	400
TRADE	2,100	2,100	0 0.0	2,100
Wholesale	400	400	0 0.0	400
Retail	1,700	1,700	0 0.0	1,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	300	300	0 0.0	300
SERVICES	2,600	2,600	0 0.0	2,600
GOVERNMENT	800	800	0 0.0	700
Federal	0	0	0 0.0	0
State & Local	800	800	0 0.0	700

For further information on the Lower River Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 263-6299.

NEW HAVEN LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
	SEP 1999	SEP 1998	CHANGE NO. %	AUG 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	257,900	252,700 *	5,200 2.1	255,400
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	50,600	50,600	0 0.0	50,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	10,400	10,300	100 1.0	10,600
MANUFACTURING	40,200	40,300	-100 -0.2	39,900
Durable Goods	25,800	25,600	200 0.8	25,500
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,700	6,700	0 0.0	6,600
Electronic Equipment	5,400	5,200	200 3.8	5,300
Nondurable Goods	14,400	14,700	-300 -2.0	14,400
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,200	5,400	-200 -3.7	5,200
Chemicals & Allied	5,400	5,400	0 0.0	5,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	207,300	202,100 *	5,200 2.6	204,900
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	16,600	13,500 *	3,100 23.0	16,500
Communications & Utilities	8,800	5,700 *	3,100 54.4	8,900
TRADE	54,700	54,200	500 0.9	55,000
Wholesale	14,400	14,000	400 2.9	14,200
Retail	40,300	40,200	100 0.2	40,800
Eating & Drinking Places	11,600	11,500	100 0.9	11,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	13,700	13,500	200 1.5	13,800
Finance	4,300	4,100	200 4.9	4,300
Insurance	7,400	7,400	0 0.0	7,400
SERVICES	92,300	90,500	1,800 2.0	90,000
Business Services	12,500	12,400	100 0.8	12,500
Health Services	28,800	28,500	300 1.1	28,800
GOVERNMENT	30,000	30,400	-400 -1.3	29,600
Federal	5,100	5,400	-300 -5.6	5,100
State & Local	24,900	25,000	-100 -0.4	24,500

For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact J. Charles Joo at (860) 263-6293.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

NEW LONDON LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	140,700	138,200 *	2,500	1.8	141,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	29,100	28,800	300	1.0	29,100
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	5,100	4,900	200	4.1	5,100
MANUFACTURING	24,000	23,900	100	0.4	24,000
Durable Goods	13,700	14,100	-400	-2.8	13,700
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,100
Other Durable Goods	11,600	11,900	-300	-2.5	11,600
Nondurable Goods	10,300	9,800	500	5.1	10,300
Paper & Allied	900	900	0	0.0	800
Other Nondurable Goods	8,100	7,600	500	6.6	8,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	111,600	109,400 *	2,200	2.0	112,500
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	6,700	6,400 *	300	4.7	6,800
TRADE	28,500	28,000	500	1.8	29,000
Wholesale	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,900
Retail	25,700	25,300	400	1.6	26,100
Eating & Drinking Places	8,200	8,100	100	1.2	8,600
Other Retail	17,400	17,200	200	1.2	17,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	3,800	3,700	100	2.7	3,800
SERVICES	36,100	35,700	400	1.1	36,500
Personal & Business Services	6,300	6,200	100	1.6	6,300
Health Services	11,800	11,700	100	0.9	11,800
GOVERNMENT	36,500	35,600	900	2.5	36,400
Federal	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
State & Local	33,800	32,900	900	2.7	33,700
**Local	29,600	28,700	900	3.1	29,500

For further information on the New London Labor Market Area contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 263-6292.

STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	207,600	206,500 *	1,100	0.5	207,700
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	33,200	33,300	-100	-0.3	32,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	6,100	6,300	-200	-3.2	6,100
MANUFACTURING	27,100	27,000	100	0.4	26,300
Durable Goods	14,800	14,400	400	2.8	14,100
Industrial Machinery	3,700	3,600	100	2.8	3,300
Electronic Equipment	2,200	2,400	-200	-8.3	2,200
Nondurable Goods	12,300	12,600	-300	-2.4	12,200
Paper, Printing & Publishing	6,000	6,100	-100	-1.6	5,900
Chemicals & Allied	3,100	3,100	0	0.0	3,100
Other Nondurable	3,200	3,400	-200	-5.9	3,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	174,400	173,200 *	1,200	0.7	175,300
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	10,000	10,700 *	-700	-6.5	10,000
Communications & Utilities	2,700	3,300 *	-600	-18.2	2,800
TRADE	42,900	44,100	-1,200	-2.7	42,900
Wholesale	11,400	11,600	-200	-1.7	11,300
Retail	31,500	32,500	-1,000	-3.1	31,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	25,700	24,800	900	3.6	25,900
SERVICES	78,100	75,900	2,200	2.9	79,500
Business Services	23,500	23,100	400	1.7	23,600
Engineering & Mgmt. Services	11,100	10,800	300	2.8	11,300
Other Services	43,500	42,000	1,500	3.6	44,600
GOVERNMENT	17,700	17,700	0	0.0	17,000
Federal	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
State & Local	15,800	15,800	0	0.0	15,100

For further information on the Stamford Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepki at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

TORRINGTON LMA

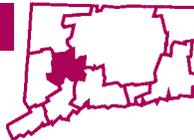


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	29,600	29,700 *	-100	-0.3	29,900
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	7,900	8,400	-500	-6.0	8,000
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,100
MANUFACTURING	5,800	6,200	-400	-6.5	5,900
Durable Goods	4,100	4,400	-300	-6.8	4,200
Primary & Fabricated Metals	700	600	100	16.7	700
Industrial Machinery	900	1,200	-300	-25.0	900
Electronic Equipment	400	500	-100	-20.0	500
Other Durable Goods	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,100
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,800	-100	-5.6	1,700
Rubber & Plastics	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	0	0.0	900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	21,700	21,300 *	400	1.9	21,900
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	800	800 *	0	0.0	900
TRADE	6,700	6,300	400	6.3	6,800
Wholesale	600	700	-100	-14.3	600
Retail	6,100	5,600	500	8.9	6,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	800	800	0	0.0	800
SERVICES	10,000	10,000	0	0.0	10,100
GOVERNMENT	3,400	3,400	0	0.0	3,300
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,200	3,200	0	0.0	3,100

For further information on the Torrington Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepki at (860) 263-6278.

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	87,000	86,800 *	200	0.2	86,500
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,300	22,300	0	0.0	22,300
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,600	3,600	0	0.0	3,700
MANUFACTURING	18,700	18,700	0	0.0	18,600
Durable Goods	14,800	14,600	200	1.4	14,700
Primary Metals	900	800	100	12.5	900
Fabricated Metals	6,500	6,500	0	0.0	6,400
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,900	4,900	0	0.0	4,800
Nondurable Goods	3,900	4,100	-200	-4.9	3,900
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	1,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	64,700	64,500 *	200	0.3	64,200
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	3,600	3,200 *	400	12.5	3,300
TRADE	18,200	18,200	0	0.0	18,300
Wholesale	2,800	3,200	-400	-12.5	2,800
Retail	15,400	15,000	400	2.7	15,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	3,700	3,600	100	2.8	3,600
SERVICES	27,200	27,200	0	0.0	27,300
Personal & Business	7,400	7,300	100	1.4	7,200
Health Services	10,600	10,700	-100	-0.9	10,700
GOVERNMENT	12,000	12,300	-300	-2.4	11,700
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,200	11,500	-300	-2.6	10,900

For further information on the Waterbury Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepki at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
		1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>						
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,704,700	1,703,200	1,500	0.1	1,736,100
	Employed	1,668,400	1,654,400	14,000	0.8	1,700,200
	Unemployed	36,300	48,800	-12,500	-25.6	36,000
	Unemployment Rate	2.1	2.9	-0.8	---	2.1
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	215,800	216,500	-700	-0.3	219,000
	Employed	210,100	209,000	1,100	0.5	213,300
	Unemployed	5,700	7,400	-1,700	-23.0	5,700
	Unemployment Rate	2.6	3.4	-0.8	---	2.6
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	110,600	109,500	1,100	1.0	111,200
	Employed	109,100	107,400	1,700	1.6	109,600
	Unemployed	1,500	2,100	-600	-28.6	1,700
	Unemployment Rate	1.4	1.9	-0.5	---	1.5
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	32,100	32,200	-100	-0.3	32,100
	Employed	31,300	31,000	300	1.0	31,400
	Unemployed	800	1,200	-400	-33.3	700
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	3.7	-1.2	---	2.3
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	578,000	578,700	-700	-0.1	586,300
	Employed	565,000	561,600	3,400	0.6	573,700
	Unemployed	12,900	17,100	-4,200	-24.6	12,700
	Unemployment Rate	2.2	3.0	-0.8	---	2.2
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,200	12,200	0	0.0	12,500
	Employed	12,000	11,900	100	0.8	12,300
	Unemployed	200	300	-100	-33.3	200
	Unemployment Rate	1.6	2.4	-0.8	---	1.5
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	272,200	271,000	1,200	0.4	277,000
	Employed	266,400	263,200	3,200	1.2	271,200
	Unemployed	5,800	7,900	-2,100	-26.6	5,900
	Unemployment Rate	2.1	2.9	-0.8	---	2.1
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	153,100	151,700	1,400	0.9	158,400
	Employed	149,500	146,600	2,900	2.0	154,900
	Unemployed	3,600	5,100	-1,500	-29.4	3,600
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	3.3	-1.0	---	2.2
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	193,100	192,800	300	0.2	198,900
	Employed	190,300	189,100	1,200	0.6	196,300
	Unemployed	2,800	3,700	-900	-24.3	2,600
	Unemployment Rate	1.5	1.9	-0.4	---	1.3
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	39,100	39,400	-300	-0.8	40,300
	Employed	38,500	38,600	-100	-0.3	39,700
	Unemployed	600	800	-200	-25.0	600
	Unemployment Rate	1.6	2.0	-0.5	---	1.6
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	115,000	115,300	-300	-0.3	117,100
	Employed	112,200	111,400	800	0.7	114,300
	Unemployed	2,700	3,900	-1,200	-30.8	2,800
	Unemployment Rate	2.4	3.3	-0.9	---	2.4
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	139,217,000	137,903,000	1,314,000	1.0	140,090,000
	Employed	133,555,000	131,864,000	1,691,000	1.3	134,264,000
	Unemployed	5,661,000	6,039,000	-378,000	-6.3	5,826,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.4	-0.3	---	4.2

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MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	SEP		CHG	AUG	SEP		CHG	AUG	SEP		CHG	AUG
	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>												
MANUFACTURING	\$652.26	\$627.66	\$24.60	\$648.98	42.0	41.9	0.1	42.5	\$15.53	\$14.98	\$0.55	\$15.27
DURABLE GOODS	671.50	638.40	33.10	668.22	42.5	42.0	0.5	43.0	15.80	15.20	0.60	15.54
Lumber & Furniture	508.75	496.69	12.06	520.51	40.7	42.2	-1.5	42.7	12.50	11.77	0.73	12.19
Stone, Clay and Glass	619.31	625.61	-6.30	649.38	46.6	45.4	1.2	47.4	13.29	13.78	-0.49	13.70
Primary Metals	624.62	585.54	39.08	618.80	42.9	42.4	0.5	42.5	14.56	13.81	0.75	14.56
Fabricated Metals	592.05	577.46	14.59	600.91	41.9	41.1	0.8	42.8	14.13	14.05	0.08	14.04
Machinery	699.33	678.78	20.55	691.73	43.9	43.4	0.5	44.2	15.93	15.64	0.29	15.65
Electrical Equipment	537.01	509.53	27.48	535.10	41.5	40.6	0.9	42.2	12.94	12.55	0.39	12.68
Trans. Equipment	896.21	808.55	87.66	873.56	43.4	42.6	0.8	43.7	20.65	18.98	1.67	19.99
Instruments	608.33	597.60	10.73	608.18	40.8	41.5	-0.7	40.9	14.91	14.40	0.51	14.87
Miscellaneous Mfg	647.36	600.43	46.93	616.10	42.9	41.9	1.0	41.6	15.09	14.33	0.76	14.81
NONDUR. GOODS	604.66	604.01	0.65	605.49	40.8	41.8	-1.0	41.5	14.82	14.45	0.37	14.59
Food	526.49	558.11	-31.61	523.34	41.1	43.5	-2.4	41.8	12.81	12.83	-0.02	12.52
Textiles	497.21	461.95	35.26	483.95	41.4	40.1	1.3	40.6	12.01	11.52	0.49	11.92
Apparel	338.52	319.13	19.39	336.76	39.5	37.5	2.0	39.9	8.57	8.51	0.06	8.44
Paper	741.64	721.28	20.36	754.97	43.6	46.0	-2.4	45.1	17.01	15.68	1.33	16.74
Printing & Publishing	627.25	609.84	17.41	620.14	39.4	39.6	-0.2	39.6	15.92	15.40	0.52	15.66
Chemicals	737.66	792.51	-54.85	741.01	40.8	44.8	-4.0	41.7	18.08	17.69	0.39	17.77
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	522.65	513.59	9.06	531.23	40.8	40.6	0.2	41.6	12.81	12.65	0.16	12.77
CONSTRUCTION	825.40	808.30	17.10	867.34	40.6	40.7	-0.1	42.6	20.33	19.86	0.47	20.36

LMAs

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	SEP		CHG	AUG	SEP		CHG	AUG	SEP		CHG	AUG
	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999
MANUFACTURING												
Bridgeport	\$665.02	\$636.32	\$28.70	\$638.50	41.0	41.4	-0.4	41.3	\$16.22	\$15.37	\$0.85	\$15.46
Danbury	606.11	626.45	-20.34	629.51	40.3	42.1	-1.8	41.8	15.04	14.88	0.16	15.06
Danielson	517.05	478.18	38.87	505.52	41.9	40.8	1.1	41.2	12.34	11.72	0.62	12.27
Hartford	683.49	670.65	12.84	688.08	41.6	42.5	-0.9	42.5	16.43	15.78	0.65	16.19
Lower River	543.02	536.11	6.91	534.15	41.2	40.4	0.8	40.9	13.18	13.27	-0.09	13.06
New Haven	627.00	604.82	22.18	621.15	41.8	41.2	0.6	41.8	15.00	14.68	0.32	14.86
New London	687.26	658.02	29.24	688.97	42.9	42.1	0.8	42.9	16.02	15.63	0.39	16.06
Stamford	529.74	529.76	-0.02	517.97	39.8	38.5	1.3	39.6	13.31	13.76	-0.45	13.08
Torrington	594.09	519.17	74.92	582.69	41.4	41.5	-0.1	41.8	14.35	12.51	1.84	13.94
Waterbury	638.88	597.98	40.90	627.85	44.0	42.5	1.5	43.3	14.52	14.07	0.45	14.50

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NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		AUG
	1999	1998	UNITS	%	1999	1998	UNITS	%	1999
	Connecticut	894	984	-90	-9.1	8,376	8,570	-194	-2.3
Counties:									
Fairfield	197	194	3	1.5	1,744	2,273	-529	-23.3	232
Hartford	204	225	-21	-9.3	1,731	2,147	-416	-19.4	205
Litchfield	67	72	-5	-6.9	660	604	56	9.3	68
Middlesex	70	74	-4	-5.4	708	541	167	30.9	94
New Haven	184	196	-12	-6.1	1,946	1,474	472	32.0	206
New London	77	134	-57	-42.5	696	739	-43	-5.8	85
Tolland	49	49	0	0.0	578	512	66	12.9	53
Windham	46	40	6	15.0	313	280	33	11.8	48

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	SEP 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998	TOWN	SEP 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998	TOWN	SEP 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998
Andover	0	20	18	Griswold	3	32	35	Preston	2	17	16
Ansonia	5	35	21	Groton	14	100	94	Prospect	10	46	44
Ashford	1	15	29	Guilford	21	96	111	Putnam	2	14	9
Avon	10	140	160	Haddam	0	29	13	Redding	3	23	31
Barkhamsted	2	15	20	Hamden	31	246	76	Ridgefield	9	96	107
Beacon Falls	8	35	19	Hampton	1	12	12	Rocky Hill	5	76	96
Berlin	14	75	68	Hartford	7	61	75	Roxbury	6	24	24
Bethany	0	19	20	Hartland	1	1	3	Salem	2	14	18
Bethel	11	36	33	Harwinton	1	20	17	Salisbury	0	3	8
Bethlehem	1	16	12	Hebron	6	61	59	Scotland	1	7	11
Bloomfield	1	31	29	Kent	1	11	10	Seymour	6	44	43
Bolton	2	25	17	Killingly	3	23	24	Sharon	0	4	3
Bozrah	0	13	6	Killingworth	7	57	45	Shelton	14	141	167
Branford	1	41	29	Lebanon	2	33	20	Sherman	6	18	14
Bridgeport	10	44	83	Ledyard	3	39	57	Simsbury	4	50	62
Bridgewater	2	6	10	Lisbon	2	20	17	Somers	0	27	32
Bristol	13	75	69	Litchfield	4	41	29	South Windsor	3	87	108
Brookfield	3	51	130	Lyme	1	12	13	Southbury	10	85	79
Brooklyn	1	40	9	Madison	9	63	77	Southington	26	226	174
Burlington	1	43	38	Manchester	27	93	352	Sprague	1	3	1
Canaan	1	4	2	Mansfield	9	54	44	Stafford	3	37	27
Canterbury	3	14	20	Marlborough	6	28	29	Stamford	18	280	200
Canton	3	54	35	Meriden	6	33	41	Sterling	3	17	16
Chaplin	2	13	13	Middlebury	3	20	18	Stonington	2	74	68
Cheshire	6	92	78	Middlefield	2	24	11	Stratford	0	32	36
Chester	10	17	9	Middletown	0	153	110	Suffield	7	71	175
Clinton	16	62	60	Milford	6	212	115	Thomaston	2	38	35
Colchester	8	81	83	Monroe	2	55	86	Thompson	5	30	18
Colebrook	0	5	10	Montville	3	30	31	Tolland	8	115	91
Columbia	2	26	23	Morris	1	13	8	Torrington	4	85	56
Cornwall	1	5	5	Naugatuck	7	43	36	Trumbull	5	82	106
Coventry	8	44	48	New Britain	2	8	5	Union	0	4	5
Cromwell	5	47	40	New Canaan	2	40	46	Vernon	6	52	19
Danbury	46	230	592	New Fairfield	2	26	20	Voluntown	3	20	15
Darien	2	24	17	New Hartford	1	21	26	Wallingford	13	157	162
Deep River	2	18	19	New Haven	0	233	58	Warren	1	8	7
Derby	2	21	24	New London	0	0	1	Washington	1	9	10
Durham	2	44	33	New Milford	22	146	89	Waterbury	8	41	44
East Granby	3	19	17	Newington	7	71	93	Waterford	6	59	61
East Haddam	8	75	67	Newtown	14	181	196	Watertown	1	50	65
East Hampton	6	62	34	Norfolk	1	4	2	West Hartford	2	27	17
East Hartford	0	4	3	North Branford	2	23	43	West Haven	5	36	23
East Haven	5	31	57	North Canaan	0	6	3	Westbrook	3	34	46
East Lyme	12	77	122	North Haven	3	141	83	Weston	3	15	14
East Windsor	1	14	24	No. Stonington	8	26	31	Westport	5	44	35
Eastford	1	3	7	Norwalk	20	125	96	Wethersfield	6	31	57
Easton	3	30	33	Norwich	1	17	18	Willington	1	5	12
Ellington	4	108	117	Old Lyme	4	29	32	Wilton	5	25	37
Enfield	5	49	61	Old Saybrook	1	14	20	Winchester	2	13	56
Essex	3	41	24	Orange	1	12	13	Windham	10	32	19
Fairfield	5	57	95	Oxford	13	63	71	Windsor	4	39	39
Farmington	18	106	86	Plainfield	6	38	30	Windsor Locks	0	13	7
Franklin	0	0	0	Plainville	3	25	29	Wolcott	2	57	60
Glastonbury	18	158	200	Plymouth	3	50	30	Woodbridge	1	21	29
Goshen	3	24	9	Pomfret	3	29	26	Woodbury	6	39	58
Granby	7	56	36	Portland	5	31	10	Woodstock	4	26	37
Greenwich	9	89	99								

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

DOL newly registered employers are those businesses newly registered with the Labor Department's unemployment insurance program (including reopened accounts) during the month. DOL discontinued employers are those accounts that are terminated due to inactivity (no employees) or business closure. Registrations and terminations of business entities as recorded with the Secretary of the State are an indication of new business formation and activity. These registrations include limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and foreign-owned (out-of-state) and domestic-owned (in-state) corporations.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), computed and published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs and other goods and services that people buy for their day-to-day living. The Northeast region is comprised of the New England states, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. *There is no separate consumer price index for Connecticut or any area within the state.*

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) covers both wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits for all occupations and establishments in both the private nonfarm sector and state and local government. The ECI measures employers' labor costs free from the influences of employment shifts among industries and occupations. The base period for all data is June 1989 when the ECI is 100.

HOURS AND EARNINGS ESTIMATES

Production worker earnings and hours estimates include full- and part-time employees working within manufacturing industries. Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month. Average hourly earnings are affected by such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

INITIAL CLAIMS

Average weekly initial claims are calculated by dividing the total number of new claims for unemployment insurance received in the month by the number of weeks in the month. A minor change in methodology took effect with data published in the March 1997 issue of the DIGEST. Data have been revised back to January 1980.

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Primarily a measure of unemployment insurance program activity, the insured unemployment rate is the 13-week average of the number of people claiming unemployment benefits divided by the number of workers covered by the unemployment insurance system.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

Labor force estimates are a measure of the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Prepared under the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the statewide estimates are the product of a multiple variable coefficient regression model, which uses results from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of Connecticut households, counts of claimants for unemployment benefits, and establishment employment estimates. Due to the small size of the sample taken in Connecticut, the CPS results are subject to significant sampling error and produce considerable month-to-month fluctuations in estimates derived from the sample. In general, the CPS estimates, at the 90 percent confidence level, have an error range of about 1.5 percentage points on a rate of 6.0 percent. An accepted method for calculating the error range for model estimates is currently not available. Labor force data, reflecting persons employed by place of residence, are not directly comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. In the labor force estimates, workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. The labor force data also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics and the self-employed. Because of these conceptual differences, total labor force employment is almost always different from nonfarm wage and salary employment.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

All Labor Market Areas in Connecticut except three are federally designated areas for developing labor statistics. Industry employment data for the Danielson, Lower River and Torrington Labor Market Areas are prepared exclusively by the Connecticut Department of Labor, following the same statistical procedures used to prepare estimates for the other Labor Market Areas, which are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified the five towns of Canaan, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon as a separate area for reporting labor force data. For the convenience of our data users, data for these towns are included in the Torrington Labor Market Area. For the same purpose, data for the town of Thompson, which is officially part of the Worcester Metropolitan Statistical Area, are included in the Danielson Labor Market Area. Also, data for Hopkinton and Westerly, Rhode Island are included in the New London Labor Market Area.

LEADING AND COINCIDENT EMPLOYMENT INDICES

The *leading employment index* is a composite of five individual employment-related series -the average workweek of manufacturing production workers, Hartford help-wanted advertising, short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, initial claims for unemployment insurance and total housing permits. While not an employment-sector variable, housing permits are closely related to construction employment. The *coincident employment index* is a composite indicator of four individual employment-related series -the total unemployment rate, nonfarm employment (employer survey), total employment (household survey) and the insured unemployment rate. All data are seasonally adjusted and come from the Connecticut Labor Department and from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

Nonfarm employment estimates are derived from a survey of businesses to measure *jobs* by industry. The estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Excluded from these estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees and unpaid family workers. In some cases, due to space constraints, all industry estimates are not shown. Call (860) 263-6275 for a more comprehensive breakout of nonfarm employment estimates.

UI COVERED WAGES

UI covered wages is the total amount paid to those employees who are covered under the Connecticut's Unemployment Insurance (UI) law for services performed during the quarter. The fluctuations in the 1992-93 period reflect the effect of the changes in the tax law and the massive restructuring in the state's economy.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT A GLANCE

(Percent change from prior year; see pages 5-9 for reference months)

Leading Employment Index +0.3	Business Activity	Tourism and Travel
Coincident Employment Index +4.6	New Housing Permits -9.1	Tourism Inquiries +40.6
Total Nonfarm Employment +1.7	Electricity Sales +11.6	Tourism Info Centers -5.1
Unemployment -0.7*	Retail Sales +2.8	Attraction Visitors +1.4
Labor Force +0.1	Construction Contracts Index +31.2	Hotel-Motel Occupancy -1.6*
Employed +0.9	New Auto Registrations -29.8	Air Passenger Count +10.0
Unemployed -21.7	Air Cargo Tons +1.6	
Average Weekly Initial Claims -22.1	Business Starts	Employment Cost Index (U.S.)
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford -6.3	Secretary of the State +15.7	Total +3.1
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate -0.03*	Dept. of Labor -1.8	Wages & Salaries +3.2
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg +0.2	Business Terminations	Benefit Costs +2.8
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg +3.7	Secretary of the State -0.9	Consumer Price Index
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg +3.9	Dept. of Labor -5.0	U.S. City Average +2.6
CT Mfg. Production Index +0.6	State Tax Collections +2.9	Northeast Region +2.5
Production Worker Hours -1.6	Corporate Tax -15.9	NY-NJ-Long Island +2.2
Industrial Electricity Sales -1.4	Personal Income Tax +5.7	Boston-Brockton-Nashua +2.7
Personal Income +5.8	Real Estate Conveyance Tax +0.6	Consumer Confidence
UI Covered Wages +5.0	Sales & Use Tax +5.2	U.S. +6.2

*Percentage point change; **Less than 0.05 percent; NA = Not Available

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